

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

OFFICIAL

In re Application of:  
Pietras, et al.

Serial No.: 09/509,073

Confirmation No.: 5424

Filed: August 22, 2000

For: An Apparatus for  
Facilitating the  
Connection of Tubulars  
Using a Top DriveCommissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

§ Group Art Unit: 3672

§ Examiner: J. Hawkins Gay

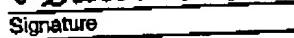
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37 CFR 1.8I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile  
transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office to fax number  
703/305-7687 to the attention of Examiner Jennifer Gay, on  
the date below.

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Date Signature

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT DATED  
OCTOBER 10, 2003

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated October 10, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 10, 2003, please enter this Response to Non-Compliant Amendment. Although Applicants believe that no fees are due in connection with this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/0012.Y1/WBP for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

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**DATE:** November 7, 2003

**FILE NO:** MRKS/0012.D1

**TO:** Examiner J. Hawkins Gay

**FAX NO:** 703/305-7687

**COMPANY:** USPTO

**FROM:** William B. Patterson

**PAGE(S) with cover:** 8

**ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW?**  YES  NO

### RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT DATED OCTOBER 10, 2003

**TITLE:** An Apparatus for Facilitating the Connection  
of Tubulars Using a Top Drive

**U.S. SERIAL NO.:** 09/509,073

**FILING DATE:** August 22, 2000

**INVENTOR:** Pietras et al.

**EXAMINER:** J. Hawkins Gay

**GROUP ART UNIT:** 3672

**CONFIRMATION NO.:** 5424

### CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE

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